and some other third countries are being flooded into Nepal markets. Now they have promised in their latest statement that they will go back on it and will keep to the commitment and withdraw customs duty. But they have been making promises for a long time. They never kept their commitment. I want to appeal to the Foreign Minister not to be misled by it and he must get rise in additional customs duties withdrawn before signing any treaty with them. They say they want to finish the special relationship with India. O.K. They are welcome to do it. But we have to look after our own economic interest, our own national security. There was violation of the treaty of 1950 when Nepalese brought in 500 trucks of offensive weapons from China, out of which there were four batteries of anti-aircraft guns. I want to ask Nepal, why anti-aircraft guns at all? Where have these been located? I want our Government to tell us where they have been located. My information is that they have been located in the Tarai region in our borders. Against whom? It is against India. Is it really the implementation of the treaty? There are millions of Nepalese working in India without the need of a work permit for them. There are 22 lakh people of Indian origin staying in Nepalese Tarai region for a very long time, and they have not been given citizenship rights whereas Nepal has said again and again it would not revoke system of work permit which will not be tolerated.

3.00 P.M. I demand from the Government that these questions should be settled to our satisfaction in national interest. A section of the Palace officials which is very much anti-Indian owns vast properties in India. They have everything in India. I want the Government to consider retaliatory action if they do not behave. They can own property in India but we have no such right in Nepal. When Indians in Nepal have no right to purchase any property there why should they have the right here? I welcome the strong attitude adopted by our Government in regard to Nepal. Their bluff has been called. Their blackmail will not be tolerated. I congratulate the Government on the bold stand taken by them once again. Thank you.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER RE. JAWAHAR ROZGAR YOJANA

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no problem before the country so acute as the problem of the unemployment and underemployment. There is no segment of our population more disadvantaged than the rural poor. There is no section of our people as much in need as women from poor rural families, especially those with no land of their own.

It was from Jawaharlal Nehru that we learned that our first national duty is to work for the elimination of poverty. It was from Jawaharlal Nehru too that we learned that the greatest naional endeavour is to mitigate the distress of the unemployed and underemployed masses of rural India.

Therefore, there is no greater tribute we could pay to the founder-architect of our modern nationhood than to dedicate our celebrations of his birth centenary to a programme of providing massive employment to the poor in rural India.

Sir, we are today launching the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

It is a programme aimed at placing in the hands of village panchayats around the country adequate funds to run their own rural employment schemes in the interests of the vast masses of the rural poor who constitute the bulk of rural India. It has been estimated that in the last seven years, rural employment programmes have reached only 55 per cent of the village panchayats around the country. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana aims at reaching every single panchayat.

Central assistance will finance 88 per cent of the programmes. In its very first year of operation that is the current fiscal year, Central assistance for this programme will amount to Rs. 2100 crore. We are so structuring the finances that funds will be allocated to States in proportion to the size of their population which falls below the poverty line. The further de-

[Shri Rajiv Gandhi]

volution of these funds to districts will be determined in terms of criteria of backwardness such as the share of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the total population of the district, the proportion of agricultural labour to total labour, and the level of agricultural productivity. Special consideration will be given to meeting the requirements of geographically distinctive areas such as hills, deserts and islands.

It is our expectation that, on and average, a village panchayat with a population of three thousand to four thousand people will receive between Rs. 80,000 and Rs. one lakh a year to implement the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. We expect to be able to provide employment to at least one member of each poor rural family for fifty to a hundred days a year at a workplace near his residence. We hope to incorporate into the programme integrated schemes to provide employment to nomadic tribes. A very special feature of the scheme is that 30 per cent of the employment generated will be reserved for women.

Through the devolution of this programme to village panchayats, we expect the benefits of this programme directly reaching the people to be significantly higher than in the past. Thus far, too large a proportion of funds for such programmes has gone to contractors and intermediaries. There have also been other leakages. Besides, there is scope for economizing on the costs of administration.

By devolving the finances to the Panchayats, and entrusting to them the administration of the programme, we expect a much larger proportion of the funds than ever before to be deployed on the programme itself.

We also expect the implementation of the programme to be more open, more transparent than ever before. Every villager will know how much money is available for the programme and which are the schemes being financed. He will also know who are his follow-villagers being employed on the schemes. Each beneficiary getting employment will know how much remuneration he is receiving and others are receiving, as also how many days of work he is being given and others are being given. Those who are cheated or deprived will not only have the possibility of demanding immediate redress, they will also have in their hands the ultimate weapon of the vote to turn out of office any panch or sarpanch who abuses the powers and responsibilities devolved on him. Democracy will reinforce opportunity to bring the Welfare State to the doorstep of the villager, where he lives and seeks work.

For, as Jawaharlal Nehru said:

> "Panchayats and village communities, should make their proposals. We can no longer function merely from the top, for we have to organise cooperatively the millions of our people and make them partners and sharers in these great undertakings."

Panditji urged us to remember that:

> "Whatever plan we might make, the test of its success is how far it brings relief to the millions of our people who live on a bare subsistence level, that is the good and advancement of the masses of our people. Every other interest must be subordinated to this primary consideration...

He added:

> "Unemployment, on a large scale casts a blight on many young lives and is one of our major problems. We cannot remove it by some magic... But we should be able to guarantee employment and work to anyone who is prepared to work hard and is not disdainful of manual labour."

That remains our ultimate goal. For the present, we are doing as much as our resources permit. All existing rural wage employment programmes stand merged in to the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. The Yojana will reach out all over the country to the 440 lakh families in rural India living below the poverty line. We aim to touch each one of these families. We aim to alleviate something of the hardship which these families face. In particular, we aim to mitigate the distress which the women of these families have faced for centuries with their legendary courage

and fortitude. And we aim to secure these noble ends through the noble institution of the panchayats.

Sir, in the name of Jawaharlal Nehru, that great freedom fighter and builder of modern India, we rededicate ourselves to ending the curse of unemployment, eliminating the blight of poverty, dismantling discrimination against women, and assuring for all our people opportunity and assistance in leading a full and fulfilling life.

Thank you Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sukomal Sen.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (मध्य प्रदेश) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा सुझाव यह है कि इस महत्वपूर्ण वक्तव्य पर पूरी चर्चा का अवसर दिया जाए ।

केवल स्पष्टीकरण मांगने से और थोड़ा सा स्पष्टीकरण देने से काम नहीं चलेगा । आप एक दिन निश्चित करिए । हम इस पर गहराई से विचार करना चाहते हैं ।

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): That is a better course because it is no use asking small clarifications and getting small replies. This is a very important scheme. It is a frontal attack on poverty. We must discuss it in depth.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): We leave these clarifications today. Questions and clarifications may not be taken up today. It can be a debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No clarifications.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): You fix the time for discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will fix time for discussion.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Whenever you are pleased to decide.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of you agree.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Yes.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : आप चर्चा की तारीख तय कर दीजिए ।

श्री सभापति : यह बाद में तय होगा ।

The House now rises for lunch and will meet again at 2.30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at eleven minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled, after lunch, at thirty-two minutes past two of the clock, **The Vice-Chairman (Shri Jagesh Desai)** in the Chair

ANNOUNCEMENT RE. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING 2ND MAY, 1989

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 2nd May 1989 will consist of:—

(1) Discussion on the working of the Ministry of:—

(a) Human Resource Development

(b) Information & Broadcasting

(2) Consideration and return of the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1989 as passed by the Lok Sabha.

(3) Consideration and passing of the Constitution (Sixty-First Amendment) Bill, 1988.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1989—[*Insertion of new articles 281A and 281B.*]

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Shri Maulana Asad Madni....Not here. Mr. Chitta Basu.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.